

# REMARKS

OF

Senators WOLVERTON, SILL, and JONES,

ON

SENATE BILL NO. 21.

ENTITLED

"An Act Appropriating \$3,000 for the Erection of a Monument over the  
Grave of Governor Simon Snyder,"

MADE IN THE

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1881.

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HARRISBURG, PA.:

LANE S. HART, STATE PRINTER AND BINDER.

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## RESOLUTION.

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IN THE SENATE, *March 30, 1881.*

*Resolved*, That five hundred copies of the eulogistic remarks of the Senator from Northumberland, the Senator from Erie, and the Senator from the Fourth district, (Philadelphia,) be printed in pamphlet form for the use of the Senate, on Senate bill No. 21, entitled "An act appropriating three thousand dollars for the erection of a monument over the grave of Governor Simon Snyder.

[Extracts from the Journal.]

THOMAS B. COCHRAN,  
*Chief Clerk.*



## GOVERNOR SNYDER'S MONUMENT.

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The next bill in order was Senate bill No. 21, entitled "An act appropriating three thousand dollars for the erection of a monument over the grave of Governor Simon Snyder."

The bill was read at length the third time.

Mr. WOLVERTON. Mr. President, having introduced this bill, it may, perhaps, be thought proper that I should give my reasons for having done so, and why the moderate appropriation asked for should be made by its passage.

My attention was but recently called to the fact from a statement in the "Annals of Buffalo Valley," collated by John Blair Linn, that the remains of one of Pennsylvania's ablest Governors rest to-day in an old grave-yard in my district without a stone with any inscription upon it to mark the spot.

Subsequent inquiries confirmed this statement.

As Governor Snyder died while a member of this Senate, after having served his State faithfully for a continuous term of twenty years, and while representing in this body the same district I now have the honor to represent—I felt it to be my duty to call the attention of the Legislature to this neglect, and ask the small sum of three thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting over his grave a modest monument to his memory, to show that the people of this great Commonwealth, which has grown almost to an empire in proportions, do honor those who have honestly and faithfully served the State and contributed to its greatness, and to show that they are willing to honor them, and show their appreciation of their services although many years have passed since they occupied the responsible positions now held by others.

Looking back over the early history of our State, no one can fail to see how much was contributed to her present greatness and proud position by the able men who then held high positions of trust and honor. No one of the original States can boast, in its early history, of abler men, men of more integrity and honesty of purpose, in framing and administering its early laws, than Pennsylvania.

Among the foremost of these for practical ability and all the qualifications for the high position he held, was Governor Simon Snyder.

I will not attempt a eulogy upon him. His messages to the Legislature for nine consecutive years, and the record of all his official acts as a member of the Constitutional Convention, member and Speaker of the lower House, and as a member of this Senate, are his best eulogy. The continued confidence of the people of his district and of the State, that kept him continuously in the lower House, this Senate, and in the Governor's chair, for more than twenty years prior to and to the time of his death, shows that he must have been a man of more than ordinary character.

He was the first Governor of this State who was taken from the laboring class.

By his own toil he struggled from the most humble beginning to the highest position of honor in the gift of the people of his State, and held that position for the full constitutional limit of three terms.

He was born of humble German parents, in Lancaster, November 5, 1759, his parents having emigrated from the Palatinate in 1758, and settled in that county.

His father died at Lancaster in 1774, leaving him a boy sixteen years of age. Two years after his father's death he went from Lancaster to York, where he learned the business of tanning.

It was here, while learning his trade, that, under the tutorship of a kind Quaker, who kept a night school, he acquired his education.

He devoted his nights and Sundays arduously to study, and in this way laid the foundation for the education and fund of knowledge which in after life he employed for so good a purpose.

He is perhaps as noble an example of a self-made man as this State has produced.

With the exception of the limited assistance rendered him in the night school, at York, while learning his trade, through which he acquired a common English education and some knowledge of the higher mathematics, the fund of information, which his official life showed he possessed, was acquired through his untiring energy and close application.

In 1784 he removed to Northumberland county, and settled at Selinsgrove, now in Snyder county, named in honor of him.

Here he purchased a mill, and kept a store. He was elected justice of the peace, and such confidence had the people in his judg-

ment and integrity, that he either amicably adjusted all disputes brought before him, or his judgment was taken as final.

In 1789, his political career may be said to have commenced. He was then elected a member of the Constitutional Convention, and with Charles Smith, represented in the convention of 1790, Northumberland county, then composed of what is now Northumberland, Union, Snyder, Lycoming, Montour, Columbia, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Cameron, Elk, and Forest counties.

Charles Smith, his colleague, was the compiler of Smith's Laws, familiar to every lawyer. Smith was the son of a professor in the Philadelphia college, was admitted to the bar in Sunbury in 1786, and was afterward president judge of Cumberland and Franklin counties.

In 1797 Governor Snyder was elected a member of the House of Representatives, and was annually reëlected up to 1808, when he was elected Governor of this Commonwealth.

In 1802 he was chosen Speaker of the House, and so acceptably did he perform the duties of this position that he was annually chosen to preside over that body until he was elected Governor. The Legislature was then composed of able men, and his continuous election to this position shows that he was held in high esteem by them.

He was the author of the hundred dollar act, embracing the arbitration principle, providing that when a sum in controversy did not exceed one hundred dollars, cases could be tried before a justice of the peace.

So much energy and ability did he display as Speaker and as a legislator in the framing and passage of laws necessary for the public good, that he was deemed worthy of a higher position, and in 1805 he was nominated for Governor, against Thomas McKean, then Governor of the State. He was defeated by only a small majority. His large vote, however, showed his strength with the people, and in 1808 he was again nominated and elected over James Ross, of Pittsburgh, a man of great eminence and ability, by over twenty-four thousand majority. In 1811 and 1814 he was again nominated and elected by surprising majorities.

No man was bolder or more independent in his official acts, or less influenced by considerations of selfish expediency.

He had firm convictions on all matters of public policy, and could not be intimidated or driven from any policy which he believed for

the public good for the mere purpose of gaining position or temporary popularity. Perhaps no act of his public life so well illustrated this trait of his character, as his veto of an act of the Legislature chartering forty State banks in 1814. The bill had passed both houses by a large majorities and was sent to him for his approval on the eve of the nomination for a succeeding term. By party rules the Legislature, in joint convention, then made the nominations. When the convention met in joint caucus, it was suggested that no nomination be made until it was seen whether he approved this bill. He was informed of this action, but he was not the man to yield to any such considerations, and promptly, within three days from the time the bill had been handed to him, returned it with his veto.

The members of the Legislature were amazed at his independence. His independent course was the theme of universal praise, and he was again nominated and elected by a majority of over twenty thousand votes. Few men, under such circumstances, would have displayed such firmness of character.

He was the first Governor who sent his message to the Legislature in writing—previous to his time the Governors had delivered their messages in person—his reasons for this change are given in the opening part of his first message. (Senate Journal, 1809 and 1810, page 10.)

“It has been usual, at the annual meeting of the representatives of the people, for the Executive to communicate to them in person whatever he thought would have a tendency to promote the happiness and prosperity of their constituents. I have been induced to depart from this custom, from a conviction that communications by message are more in accordance with our Republican principles and institutions, simplicity of manners, sound economy and equally respectful to the members composing the Legislature.” His example has since been followed. He was the first Governor of any State who entered his official protest against the institution of slavery.

In his message of the 5th of December, 1811, (Senate Journal 1811 and 1812, page 21,) he says :

“Elevated as is her character for humanity, there is yet permitted to remain one other stain on the otherwise fair and benign features of her polity. The galling yoke of slavery is still felt by some of our fellow creatures in different parts of our Commonwealth, and its pressure is made the more severe by witnessing

the happiness and freedom of surrounding multitudes. A recent act of cruelty which came under my notice, and which awakened feelings of a painful and distressing nature, will, I trust, excuse the introduction to your notice of a subject so very interesting to the whole human family, and embracing facts and practices palpably inconsistent with the terms and spirit of that fundamental and immutable law of reason, 'That all men are born free and equal.'"

He was also the first Governor to advocate in his annual messages the free school system. In his first message (Senate Journal, 1809 and 1810, page 19,) he says: "Moral virtue consists in a knowledge of duty, and a conformity of will and action to that knowledge. Political virtue in a republic, bottomed on moral rectitude, consists of a love of the Republic, and esteem for its institution; hence the immense importance of a system of education. Can a man be morally or politically virtuous, who is ignorant of the value of the first and understands not the principles of nor knows the duties which the latter enjoins?"

"To establish, therefore, a system of education calculated to diffuse general instruction, is at once of primary importance, in both a moral and political point of view, affording the strongest bulwarks against the subversion of good morals and sound political principles. The importance of education is still more enhanced by the consideration that in a republican or a representative government, every citizen may be called upon to assist in the enactment or execution of the laws of this country; and will, hence, necessarily engage your attention."

His early struggle in poverty to obtain an education had taught him how necessary it was, by proper legislation, to place it within the reach of the poor—and he, therefore, in nearly all of his messages, calls the attention of the Legislature to this subject.

The period during which he acted as Governor was an important one in our national history.

Napoleon was on the throne of France; by his sword and iron will he had seated his three brothers on the thrones of Spain, Holland, and Italy. All Europe stood in amazement at the ambition and usurpations of the conqueror, and combined for his overthrow. In the early part of the struggle this country prospered as a neutral power, but in 1806 Great Britain declared the whole coast of the continent in a state of blockade. Napoleon retaliated—in consequence of which our vessels were seized by both, and our commerce swept from the ocean. In 1807, President Jefferson issued a

proclamation, ordering all British armed vessels from the waters of the United States, and an embargo was laid on all vessels, American and foreign, in our ports, and all American vessels were ordered home, that seamen might be drilled for hostilities.

American vessels were searched, and our own seamen impressed into the British service against their own country.

In 1812, war was declared against Great Britain by President Madison, by authority of Congress. As a great writer said, it was the war of independence to assert our rights as an independent nation.

In this contest Pennsylvania, as in the late war, from its location, stood foremost. Through the energy, promptness, and patriotism of Governor Snyder our State furnished more troops than any other.

From the first he foresaw that our complications with Great Britain would result in a second war, and he bent all his energies toward arming and disciplining the militia of the State to prepare for the conflict.

The General Government then only paid the soldier eight dollars per month. Every inducement was offered by the Governor to encourage volunteering, and all his energies devoted to their equipment and support.

A few extracts from his messages will show not only that he anticipated the struggle that was coming, but the preparations he endeavored to make meet it and to enable his State to bear her full share of the contest. I desire, in justice to his memory, to read portions from some of his messages on this subject, so that they may go upon the *Record*.

As early as 1809, in his first message, he earnestly calls the attention of the Legislature to this subject, (Senate Journal, 1809-10, pages 10 and 11, also 15 : )

“ You assemble, fellow citizens, under circumstances deeply interesting to our country, which call for all our energies and all our patriotism, and imperiously demand from the people and constituted authorities a union of action in support of our common rights. The hostile nations of Europe, with unabated fury, carry on the contest against each other, and against the rights of neutral nations. The communications laid before Congress exhibit a gloomy prospect of our foreign relations. They manifest that the frank and honorable negotiations, and a prompt and perfect compliance with our engagements have not met with corresponding dispositions, nor reciprocal good faith.

“ The conduct of the Government of Great Britain, in refusing to carry into effect a compact, predicated upon propositions made by her own minister plenipotentiary, is one of those unequivocal evidences of a contemptuous disregard for solemnly and publicly plighted national honor, which could not fail to arouse the resentment of the people of the United States; whose indignation has been greatly and justly heightened by the haughty and indecorous deportment of the British minister.

“ It is much to be regretted that all the measures which the wisdom and anxious patriotism that Congress have devised, all the manifestations of the most prompt and earnest desire to obtain honest friendship with the belligerents have not effected the object contemplated. But it is gratifying to feel that our conduct cannot have failed to impress the nations of Europe with high respect for our national character. Nor has it failed to excite in every American bosom a fixed and determined resolution to support the General Government in its patriotic efforts to maintain the honor, independence, and just rights of our country.

“ This determination is the more to be relied on because it is not only the dictate of correct feeling and the offspring of just pride, but it is also founded on the general conviction that in all its negotiations and relations with foreign powers, the late and present administrations of the General Government have been animated by the purest motives, governed by the soundest principles, and with a single eye to American rights and interests. This spirit, fellow citizens, ought to be generally fostered, for it is above all price. United at home, we have nothing to fear from abroad.

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“ The militia of our State presents a noble phalanx of one hundred thousand freemen, animated by the love of country; they would, in the hour of trial, prove themselves to be inspired by the heroic spirit of their fathers. Every motive which nerves the arm of virtue combines to make them invincible. The sovereigns and proprietors of a fertile and widely extended country, in the enjoyment of political, civil, and religious freedom—the sons of virtuous old age, and the fathers of hopeful offspring—all that can interest and invigorate the human heart unite to make our militia the pride and bulwark of their country. We owe it to ourselves, to our children, and to humanity, not to neglect any means to enable our militia to defend and preserve those sublime deposits which are committed to their care; to them we must look, to them the enlightened world must

look, as the guardians of all these improvements in political science which the new world has put into operation, and which she values as the most precious gifts to posterity and to mankind. But their courage and their patriotism will be inefficient without the aid of arms and discipline. To the Legislature, it is submitted to devise means to furnish arms and to improve the discipline of our militia."

In his message of December 6, 1810, (Senate Journal, 1810 and 1811, pages 9, 10, and 11,) he again refers to our complications with Great Britain, and calls upon the Legislature, in patriotic terms, to prepare for war in time of peace. The reasons given by him for arming and equipping the militia of the State are those of a statesman and a patriot. He says :

" Our foreign relations, I am happy to believe, present more flattering prospects than when the Legislature last assembled. The two great conflicting powers of Europe discover some disposition to abandon the unjust measures which they had adopted and which have so long and so greatly embarrassed our trade and palsied the spirit of commercial enterprise in the Union. Whether these prospects will ripen into fruitful realities, or, as heretofore, disappoint our great expectations, time alone can discover. The message of the President of the United States will probably dispel much of the uncertainty and remove much of the difficulty which prevents our forming sound and correct opinions as to the actual present and probable future situation of our country in its relations with foreign powers. Confiding in the wisdom and patriotism of the constituted authorities of the United States, you, fellow citizens, well know that Pennsylvania will ever be ready, cheerfully to embark her fortunes and resources and ardently display her energies and courage in resisting aggression, avenging insult, or defending the rights of that community of which she is a part, and from which she never has had nor ever wishes to have a separate interest, or a discordant feeling.

" The revolutions and overturnings of the old world for the last twenty years exhibit awful lessons for our contemplation, and strongly mark the fluctuations and changeability of every thing human. They have, however, left indelible impressions of the truth that, for a nation to preserve her independence, she must be not only courageous, but also armed, disciplined and united. That nation rests upon feeble props and a sandy foundation which hopes for support in time of need from allies, or relies for security in the hour of trial upon a standing army. History and experience furnish

numerous examples of the mighty evils which have fallen upon nations that were slumbering in imagined security, and of the safety which has ever been consequent upon prudent foresight. If it be more wise and politic, as well as more consistent with humanity by a commanding attitude, to deter insult or injury rather than by force to repel them, then it is greatly to be desired that the energies of the nation be organized. These considerations, fellow-citizens, will necessarily draw your attention to a revision of our militia system. On the valor and patriotism of the militia of Pennsylvania, we may with confidence rely, but those noble virtues, unaided by discipline and without the necessary weapons of warfare, would be inefficient against the attacks of a veteran, disciplined and well appointed army. Governments founded on injustice fear to arm and discipline the people, lest, they might by one mighty effort hurl oppression from its splendid throne and bury the oppressors beneath the ruins. Such Governments are, therefore, necessitated to look for preservation from a mercenary soldiery, whose pay and subsistence are drawn from the very people against whom, at the command of their officers, they must push the bayonets or direct the cannon's mouth, but, in a Government like ours, founded on the rock of eternal truth, and recognizing the equal rights of man, it is our just pride that we have everything to hope and nothing to fear from a general arming of the people. The permanence of our institutions and the independence of our country can only be secured by a well-organized, well-armed, well-disciplined and well-appointed militia.

“These and similar reflections must have deeply impressed your minds with the necessity which imposes upon the General Assembly the duty of devoting their time and talents to the making such provision by law as shall enable the freemen of this Commonwealth to take the field, if necessary, with as much advantage to their country, and honor to themselves, as in our revolutionary struggle distinguished the Pennsylvania line.”

In his message of December 5, 1812, (Senate Journal, 1811-12, pages 13 and 14,) he says :

“The communication recently made to Congress by the President of the United States, and voluminous documents accompanying the same, which, no doubt, you all have read with attention and solicitude, exhibit but a gloomy prospect. Amidst this gloom, however, it is with just pride and pleasure, we notice the firm, the candid, and impartial conduct of the Executive towards the two conflicting

Powers who have violated the laws of the Nation and of common right. The justice, impartiality, and forbearance of the United States will be a matter of wonder and approbation to a candid world, and a lasting monument to the honor of a free republican Government. While it neutralizes the poison of calumny, it inspires confidence, and it must unite the hearts and hands of all true Americans in support of their Government in every measure it may ultimately adopt for the maintenance of our rights or to avenge our wrongs. If, in this course of events, a last appeal must be made to arms, we may, with confidence, rely on the valor and patriotism of the citizens of Pennsylvania to unite with their fellow citizens of other States in supporting the honor and independence of our beloved country.

“It is a matter of satisfaction to perceive that one of the belligerents has evinced a desposition to respect our neutral rights, and although that Government has still left strong ground for complaint, yet, what it has done, justifies a hope that it is a prelude to measures of ample justice. On the part of the other belligerent scarcely a symptom appears to warrant an expectation of an amicable adjustment. To the General Government we look for that wisdom in council and persevering energy of action which will cause that power to respect all our rights and redress our injuries; and especially that of impressing our seamen. To deprive us of the fruits of our honest industry and legitimate enterprise, is palpably unjust, but to enslave an American citizen and impel by the galling lash brother to stain his hands with brother’s blood, is adding insult and cruelty to injustice, and trampling in the dust the most precious and essential attribute of a free and independent nation. Devoutly deprecating the miseries of desolating war, prudence imperiously suggests the propriety and the necessity of preparing to meet every event. This consideration will naturally lead your attention to the revision of our militia system.

“It cannot be too often repeated, that a well organized, well disciplined, and well appointed militia, is the only legitimate, efficient, and safe defense of a free Republican Government.

“It is generally acknowledged, that the present system is materially deficient, and the repeated essays of the Legislature, on that important subject, proves the difficulty of forming a system that will be effective in its operation, without being oppressive to the citizens.”

In his first message, after war was declared with Great Britain,

December 3, 1812, (Senate Journal, 1812 and 1813, pages 15 and 19,) he calls upon the Legislature, in the language of a true patriot, to lay aside all differences of opinion, and adopt every measure calculated to strengthen the strong arm of the General Government against their ancient enemy.

“ When I had last the opportunity to address the representatives of the people of Pennsylvania the nation was yet resting on the lap of peace ; but it was anticipated that the accumulating wrongs and manifold injuries inflicted, and inflicting on the persons and property of our citizens would compel Congress to declare war. War has been declared—the sword of the nation, which, for thirty years had been rusting in its scabbard, has been drawn to maintain that independence which it had gloriously achieved. In the war of the Revolution, our fathers went forth as it were, ‘ with a sling and with a stone, and smote their enemy.’ Since that period our country has been abundantly blessed and its resources greatly multiplied. Millions of her sons have grown to manhood and inherited the principle of their fathers, are determined to preserve the precious heritage which was purchased by their blood and won by their valor.

“ The Legislature of Pennsylvania have, for many years, session after session, approved of the measures of the General Government and declared that they and their constituents would zealously support all its determinations, which promised relief from the intolerable and almost colonial yoke which the Government of Great Britain was imposing. These determinations are now to be tested. The day of fruitless negotiations and unavailing resolves has passed away, and we are called upon to assume ‘ an armour and an attitude,’ becoming the day of battle and of trial. A day on which I fondly trust the people and constituted authorities of Pennsylvania will swiftly run the race of patriotic emulation with their fellow citizens and the constituted authorities of our sister States.

“ Having submitted the several considerations which have presented themselves to my mind as involving the rights and interests of our constituents, I hope to be permitted to express the satisfaction I shall feel in coinciding in every measure of the Legislature of Pennsylvania tending to strengthen and make strong the arm of the General Government, so that it may fall heavy, even in the heaviness of death, upon the enemies of our country. To do this effectually, to accomplish all the objects of the war, but one thing is needed—that union of opinion which would concentrate all the energies of the nation and direct them against the enemy. This is

the rampart against which our enemies might forever beat in vain. Be it, then, my fellow-citizens, our endeavours to foster this union of sentiment, to cherish American feelings, even national pride, and our rich reward shall be the consciousness of having promoted the best interests of our country."

No one can read his patriotic order of May 12, 1812, calling out the militia of the State, without feeling that he was a great man and a true patriot. No proclamation during the late war breathes a truer spirit of patriotism, shows a stronger love for country, nor calls upon the people to arm themselves in defense of their country in more stirring language than this order. It may be found in volume XII of Pennsylvania Archives, new series, page 531.

The President of the United States having in conformity to an act of Congress, required a draft of fourteen thousand men, as the quota of Pennsylvania towards the detachment of one hundred thousand militia, the Governor is desirous, with promptitude, to perform all the duties which the Constitution and laws, principle and patriotism, assign him. He feels his high responsibility; he knows the ardent heart-warm zeal of the Pennsylvania militia, and his sensibilities are alive to the honor of his country.

"The revolution of America, that great and mighty struggle which issued in giving to the United States that place among the powers of the earth to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitled them, had scarcely been consummated when the King over whom we had been triumphant began an invasion of our rights and property, which has almost uninterruptedly been continued, and yearly aggravated in kind and in degree. Remonstrance has followed remonstrance; but they have been only answered by repeated injury and new outrages. Their promises, their written engagements, their plighted faith, have all been wantonly violated. These wrongs have been so long endured that our motives have been mistaken and our national character misrepresented; our forbearance has been called cowardice; our love of peace a slavish fear to encounter the dangers of war. We know that these representations have no foundation in truth; but it is time that our enemies, that our friends, that the world should know we are not degenerated sons of gallant sires.

"For nearly thirty years we have been at peace with all the nations of the earth. The gates of prosperity and the full tide of happiness have borne us along, while the storm of war has been destroying the greater part of the civilized world, and inundated it with the

bitter waters of affliction. All the means which wisdom and patriotism could devise have been in vain resorted to in the hope of preserving peace. The cup of patience, of humiliation and long suffering has been filled to overflowing, and the indignant arm of an injured people must be raised to dash it to the earth and grasp the avenging sword.

“ In the cultivation of the earth, and in manufacturing and transporting its products, the people of the United States have been honestly, usefully, and harmlessly employed, and for many years have we been feeding the nation whose navy ‘ has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, and destroyed the lives of our people.’ Our ability and disposition to serve them has whetted their commercial jealousy and monopolizing animosity. It is our property that has been plundered ; it is our rights that have been invaded ; it is the persons of our friends, relatives, and countrymen that have been ‘ taken captive on the high seas.’ and constrained ‘ to bear arms against their country ; to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or fall, themselves, by their hands.’ It is our flag that has been bathed in our waters, made red with the blood of our fellow-citizens. Every gale from the ocean wafts to our ears the sighs, the groans of our impressed seamen, demanding retribution. It is our homes and firesides that have been invaded by the ‘ merciless Indian savages,’ who have been instigated to pollute our sacred soil with hostile feet, and tomahawk our citizens reposing in peace in the bosom of our country. The seeds of discord have been sown amongst our people by an accredited spy of the British Government, at a time, too, when the relations of peace and amity were subsisting between our own and that Government, founded upon reiterative assurance from them of natural esteem and friendship. If ever a nation had justifiable cause of war, that nation is the United States. If ever a people had motives to fight, we are that people. Our Government, the watchful guardians of our welfare, have sounded the alarm—they have called upon us to gird on our swords and be ready to go forth and meet our enemies. Let us hasten to obey the Government of our choice, and rally around the constituted authorities of the Union. Let an honorable zeal glow in our bosoms as we eagerly press forward to render our services. It would give the Governor inexpressible satisfaction if Pennsylvania would volunteer her quota. May each State animate the others, and every citizen act as if the public weal, the national honor and independence, rested on his single arm. The examples of the heroes and states-

men of our revolution, and the rich inheritance their courage and wisdom achieved, can not fail to urge all who love their country to flock around her standard. Upborne by the right hands of freemen, planted in the sacred soil their valorism, and consecrated by a righteous cause, this nation may well go forth 'with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence,' and a conscious belief that the arm of the Lord of Hosts, the strength of the mighty one of Israel, will be on our side.

"The last appeal now to be made by an injured and indignant nation, it remains for the militia and volunteers of Pennsylvania, by a prompt coöperation with her sister States, to render efficient the measures which are or may hereafter be adopted by the United States Government."

In his message of December 10, 1813, (Senate Journal, 1813 and 1814, pages 16 and 17,) he predicted, with remarkable foresight, what happened in 1814. Had the General Government, at Washington, acted with the energy of Governor Snyder, and made the preparations he felt necessary to meet the final contest which he predicted in the following year, the people of the United States would have been spared the humiliation of seeing their capitol captured and destroyed in 1814. In this message, he says:

"The organizing and officering these detachments, agreeably to the directions of the Secretary of War, was attended with considerable difficulty, arising out of the inefficiency of our militia law and the discordance between our military system and that of the United States. The many defects of our system render a complete and thorough revision, not only desirable and expedient, but indispensable. A conformity with the organization and regulations of the army of the United States would facilitate the detaching for service any requisition which may hereafter be made, and prevent many of those contests between corps and officers for rank and precedence, which have too frequently tended to injure the reputation of our citizen soldiers and the public service. The strong presumption that early in the spring and during the summer the enemy will invade, for the purpose of plunder and devastation, the shores of the Delaware is, independent of all other considerations, motive sufficient to induce the adoption of all the precautionary measures which prudence and foresight can suggest. The purchase of arms and ammunition, and the encouragement of efficient volunteer corps, would certainly tend to inspire confidence as well as multiply the means of resistance. Circumstanced as we are, one of our most imperious

duties is to give the State an energetic militia law; our constituents expect it, and our country demands it. Shall we disappoint expectations so just, demands so reasonable? In the message I had the honor to transmit to the Legislature, under date of the 7th of December, 1809, I submitted my opinion on this subject so fully, that I cannot deem it necessary now to occupy your time with further details."

The beginning of the year 1814 was signalized by most important military and political events. The allied armies entered Paris, forced the abdication of Napoleon, and his exile to Elba, resulting in a general peace on the European continent. While this caused general rejoicing throughout Europe, general depression followed in this country.

The British Government turned all their energy to the war with the United States. A large naval and military force was at their command—well officered and disciplined in the long war with Napoleon. Fourteen thousand of these veterans of Wellington, flushed with victory, were sent across the Atlantic, under General Ross, one of Wellington's bravest generals, and General Packenham, Wellington's brother-in-law, also one of their most skillful and successful generals.

The British Government declared its determination to lay waste the whole American coast, and with them sent a large fleet of armed vessels under Admiral Cockburn, whose subsequent acts showed that he had the disposition to faithfully perform his mission of vandalism.

The State of Pennsylvania, under the active measures taken by Governor Snyder, was better prepared than any other State to bear her part in resisting this final effort.

No event of the second war with Great Britain aroused such a universal feeling of indignation, so united a sentiment of hostility, among the people of the United States, as the capture and burning of their capitol, on the 24th of August, 1814. All political differences disappeared. The sight of a British admiral standing in the Speaker's chair of the House of Representatives, at Washington, surrounded by pillaging soldiers, and putting from that chair, by yeas and nays, a vote on the question of the destruction of their nation's capitol, was more than any citizen of the United States could bear, whatever might have been his previous views upon the expediency of the war or the policy of the Government. All such differences were laid aside. Every town and hamlet was a camp-fire and ren-

devours for soldiers. They flocked to their arms and pushed to the front from every part of this State to meet and chastise their ancient enemy.

During this conflict his son, at the head of a body of volunteers, on their way to the scene of conflict, in the night appeared before the Governor's residence at the State capital. He appeared and addressed them. He afterwards stated that he had never been so proud of his son as on that night, on seeing him with his comrades going to the front to fight in defense of his country.

The British Government soon found that they had mistaken the spirit of the American people, and they met with reverses everywhere. A nation of freemen was seen to arise in its strength. Thousands who at first had opposed the war on the ground of its policy, now viewed Great Britain only as a powerful nation precipitating her armies into the country for the purpose of desolation. The whole country was in motion, and all considerations were merged into one paramount above all others, the defense of their country against its enemies. The British were astounded at the victories won over their veteran soldiers by our patriotic soldiers. The treaty of Ghent followed, and peace was declared. One great battle was fought, and the British soldiers greatly humiliated two weeks after this treaty was signed, in ignorance of the treaty—the battle of New Orleans, at which our loss was seven; theirs, two thousand.

Through all this contest the government of Pennsylvania was administered honestly and faithfully. No man ever accused him or his administration with dishonesty. Governor Snyder believed the war a just one, and all his energies were bent towards its prosecution with vigor.

The motives that actuated him in all his public acts are most forcibly expressed by himself in the closing paragraph of his last message to the Legislature. No one can read it without feeling an admiration for the man. It may be found in Senate Journal, 1817 and 1818, page 19 and 20:

“Having discharged as well the constitutional injunction as those duties assigned by law, and recommended what in my judgment would promote the public weal, it remains for me to add that it has ever given me the purest pleasure to coöperate with the General Assembly in such measures as were calculated to perpetuate the happiness of our constituents; that in the discharge of executive functions I was ever solicitous to collect my duty from a just

appreciation of every circumstance by which it might be affected. I heard with attention and endeavored to decide with integrity. I had a wish, it is true, to regard the public voice, and I confess myself to have been ambitious to conciliate and enjoy the public confidence; but I could never abandon the superior claims of self-approbation and conscious rectitude. Satisfied on these points, (and ever aware that in the performance of executive duties by a merely practical man it is difficult, if not impossible, to avoid error,) I have ever acted in that in the least regarding what the world might say about it, and those who know me best can bear witness that I have borne with patience the consequences which, true, have casually resulted from them. For the errors I may have committed, I am consoled with the reflection that perhaps no important good was ever altogether free from alloy, and that my fellow citizens will, I trust, charitably find a palliation in the motive which at any time may have misled me.

“The confidence and support which I have experienced from my fellow-citizens for the greater portion of an active life, has impressed my mind with deep and lasting gratitude. A consciousness of having, with diligence and fidelity, endeavored to discharge the duties which a partial public has, on various occasions, assigned me, and of the liberality which has been evinced towards me by a succession of Legislatures during an arduous administration, heightens the satisfaction I have in surrendering it to an able successor.”

Having retired from the Governorship, he was at the next election sent to represent his district in this Senate, and died, while a member of this body, in November, 1819.

No one can look over the record of his official acts without feeling that he was one of Pennsylvania's greatest men.

So much of his time had been devoted to public duties that his private affairs were neglected, and he died comparatively poor. His descendants have died, and become scattered, and his grave to-day is unmarked.

It seems to me that no more fitting thing could be done than to pass this bill, appropriating a small sum to erect a modest monument to his memory.

MR. SILL. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from Northumberland [Mr. WOLVERTON] for placing upon record in our legislative debates, so luminous and succinct a statement of the life, character, and services of one of our greatest men. Pennsylvania cannot afford to be indifferent to the memory or to the history

of her sons. And representing, as I do, that part of the Keystone State which alone was menaced in the war of 1812 by the legions and fleets of Great Britain, I should indeed be recreant to the traditions of my childhood, and forgetful of the memory of the men who, in that part of the State, were the co-laborers and compatriots of Governor Snyder—an unworthy representative of the soil where their ashes repose—were I to fail to add a word to what has been so fitly spoken by the Senator from Northumberland—not to render his life more luminous, but to add my brief tribute, to lay a leaf upon the tomb of Simon Snyder. Pennsylvania has no Westminster Abbey, under the vaulted arches of which to place the ashes of her children, but she has her valleys in which to repose their remains, and beneath the vaulted skies of our own State she enshrines the memory of her great men. Simon Snyder was the great war Governor of the war of 1812, and though Andrew G. Curtin has worthily earned the name, that distinction was, in the war with England, as justly and undeniably awarded to Governor Snyder.

As the friend and counsellor of President Madison who, a man of peace, found himself in the midst of a war of colossal proportions, he had but one course to take. As the executive of what was practically a frontier State, menaced by both savage and civilized foes, it was alike his duty and pleasure to develop and arouse the patriotism of our State; to call out, organize and discipline her forces; to repel invasion from the northwest; to hurry forward reinforcements to protect the shores of the Chesapeake, and rescue the Nation's capitol, already smouldering in ashes under the vandal torch of the invader.

How well this duty was performed has been told you by the Senator from Northumberland. As I contemplate his career in war and in peace, which redounded so greatly to the honor and glory of our Commonwealth, I stand amazed that the remains and the grave of Simon Snyder should have remained thus far unrecognized and unmarked by that State for which he did so much and served so well.

It is not necessary to bring to the notice of Senators what is so well established as a matter of history, that in the war of 1812 it was a part of the designs of Great Britain to repossess the heart of our own western States—those western posts which she had under Jay's treaty of 1794, relinquished with so much unwillingness. Upon those she sought again to lay her iron hand. By her fleets and armies and savage allies, aided by the surrender of Hull, and

through her early possession of the chain of lakes, to resume her dominion in the western States.

It was under these circumstances that Erie county, on the shores of the lake, remote from the State capital, with a wilderness intervening, was threatened for months, and our people, aided by Governor Snyder's troops, stood with arms in their hands to repel the foe from the only part of Pennsylvania that was during that war threatened with invasion. Hence, Mr. President, it is that the name of Simon Snyder living was dear to the people of Erie county, and now his memory is enshrined in their hearts. It was among the earliest traditions of which I became possessed in Pennsylvania history to learn of the character, standing and career of Simon Snyder; it was told me by good authority years since, that had he survived the constitutional period which was necessary to intervene subsequent to the close of his three successive terms that he would have again been elevated by the people of Pennsylvania to the position of Governor, which he had for nine years adorned. Mr. President, it is a beautiful custom with the people of Pennsylvania to build monuments to their deceased Governor. Already one has been erected to the memory of Governor Geary; another is proposed by this bill, which I trust will unanimously pass, to the memory of Simon Snyder. A committee, upon which the venerable Senator from Washington [Mr. LAWRENCE,] is a member, with the Senator from Centre [Mr. ALEXANDER,] are in a few days to report resolutions in memory of another Governor of Pennsylvania, and if in that they should propose a continuance of this custom, I shall be glad. For, Mr. President, our noble State has a great heart, a great treasury and a great history, and she cannot afford to be indifferent to the memory of her great men. I shall vote with pleasure and cheerfulness for the bill which has been introduced by the Senator from Northumberland, [Mr. WOLVERTON,] and I again thank him that he has placed in irradicable form a succinct history of one who will, for all time, be regarded as indissolubly linked with the greatness, grandeur and prosperity of the Keystone State.

Mr. JONES. I do not wish to prolong the discussion of this matter. I was prepared to vote for it the moment I read the bill, because I believe that it is the duty of the State to remember her noble men who have departed this life. That was the reason I introduced a bill here in favor of the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the Foundation, by William Penn, of this Commonwealth, and I trust that the same Senator who has so ably advo-

cated the passage of this bill to commemorate the life of Governor Snyder, will be able to stand up here and advocate the measure which I introduced in favor of celebrating the memory of William Penn. If Simon Snyder deserves to be remembered, and if three thousand dollars should be appropriated to erect a monument to point out to future generations where the remains of that noble man lie, I say, sir, that we ought to have a large amount of money devoted for the purpose of telling the people of future years what was done by the Quaker law-giver, William Penn. Governor Snyder was an able, honest, and faithful man, and, as was well said by the Senator from Northumberland, [Mr. WOLVERTON,] he was the first of the Governors taken from the self-made men. It is high time that the place where he was buried should be honored by a suitable monument; and I am rejoiced that such a movement as this has been made. I desire to record my vote in favor of this bill.



